Housing Shortage in the Country

*314. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute housing shortage in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a proposal to make investment on rehousing in urban slums; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Over the previous five decades, annual rates of growth of urban population ranged between 2.7 to 3.8% have been registered on account of natural increase of population as a consequence of the birth rate being higher than the death rate; and migration from rural to urban areas in search of livelihood. The share of jobs created in the urban area during 1991-2001 at 19.3 million, significantly outnumbered jobs generated in rural areas at 5 million. This has led to gaps of demand and supply of housing units in urban areas and shortage of housing, particularly for the urban poor.

A Technical Group was constituted by the Ministry in 2006 to assess the urban housing shortage in the country. The Group estimated that at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan, the total housing shortage in the country was 24.71 million.

Further, an additional requirement of 1.82 million dwelling units has been projected for the Eleventh Plan, bringing the total housing requirement during the Eleventh Plan Period to 26.53 Million dwelling units.

(c) and (d) The National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy, 2007 seeks to give primacy to provision of shelter to the urban poor at their present location or near their work place and recommends relocation only in cases, where relocation is necessary on account of severe water pollution, safety problems on account of proximity to rail track or other critical concerns.

The Central Government has launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with the basic objective to strive for holistic slum development with a healthy and enabling urban environment by providing adequate shelter and basic infrastructure facilities to the slum dwellers including the migrant workers of the identified urban areas. Additional Central Assistance is provided to States/UTs for taking up housing and infrastructural facilities for the urban poor in 65 select cities under the Sub-Mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP). For other cities/towns, the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) has been introduced.

The initial allocation of Rs.18100 crores of under Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) for the seven year Mission period 2005-2012, has been enhanced to Rs.23184.60 crore for the purpose.